

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, PN

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON STAR STORY RE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES

THERE FOLLOW EXCERPTS FROM WASHINGTON STAR STORY OF APRIL
11 RELATING TO PURPORTED TRANSCRIPT OF A WHITE HOUSE
MEETING BETWEEN LEWIS AND MOORE.

QUOTE: WITH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS STILL TRYING TO PRE-
VENT A BACKLASH IN THE SENATE FROM THOSE EVENTS, THE WHITE
HOUSE YESTERDAY FOUND ITSELF HAVING TO DENY THE AUTHENTICITY
OF A PURPORTED TRANSCRIPT OF A WHITE HOUSE MEETING BETWEEN
LEWIS AND MOORE THAT WAS LEAKED TO REPORTERS BY OPPONENTS
OF THE TREATIES.

QUOTE: THE ORIGINAL SOURCE OF THE TRANSCRIPT COULD ONLY
HAVE BEEN AN OFFICIAL OF PANAMA.

QUOTE: ONE FLABBERGASTED ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL, ASKED
ABOUT THE ACCURACY OF THE TRANSCRIPT EARLY YESTERDAY AFTER-
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NOON, SCOFFED AT THE DOCUMENT. 'THERE WAS NOBODY THERE BUT
(WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS) AND THE PANAMANIAN. WE DIDN'T
EVEN MAKE A TRANSCRIPT. AND CERTAINLY IT WOULDN'T BE TO
THE PANAMANIAN'S ADVANTAGE TO LET ANYTHING LIKE THAT LOOSE.'

QUOTE: LATER, HOWEVER, IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT THE 'TRANS-
SCRIPT', SAID BY SOURCES ORIGINALLY TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN

IN SPANISH, HAD BEEN PREPARED FROM NOTES OF ONE OF THE PANAMANIAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING. THE INTRODUCTION TO THE DOCUMENTS IS WRITTEN IN THE FIRST PERSON, AS IF BY EITHER LEWIS OR THE OTHER PANAMANIAN OFFICIAL IN ATTENDANCE, R.A. BILONICK PAREDES.

QUOTE: 'AS SOON AS WE ENTERED THE OFFICE OF MR. FRANK MOORE, HE GAVE US THE NEWS...' THE MEMO BEGINS. THE REMAINDER OF THE THREE-PAGE DOCUMENT IS PRESENTED AS A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF CANDID GIVE-AND-TAKE BETWEEN LEWIS AND MOORE.

QUOTE: AFTER A NUMBER OF QUERIES BY REPORTERS, THE WHITE HOUSE LATE YESTERDAY ISSUED A STATEMENT, ATTRIBUTED TO MORE, SAYING THE SUPPORTED TRANSCRIPT WAS 'RIDDLED WITH INACCURACIES'.

QUOTE: OPPONENTS' NEWEST AMMUNITION WAS THE SO-CALLED TRANSCRIPT OF THE MOORE-LEWIS MEETING, WHICH DEPICTS LEWIS AS DEMANDING A NEW RESOLUTION TO 'NEUTRALIZE THE EFFECT' OF THE DECONCINI RESERVATION.

QUOTE: THE DOCUMENT INCLUDES THIS EXCHANGE:

QUOTE: LEWIS: 'LET'S GET TO THE POINT. THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF MY VISIT IS TO KNOW WHETHER YOU HAVE A ROUGH DRAFT OF UNCLASSIFIED

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A RESOLUTION THAT MIGHT NEUTRALIZE THE EFFECT OF THE DECONCINI AMENDMENT AND IF SO, WHEN YOU COULD GIVE IT TO ME FOR MY STUDY, AS THE CLOCK IS NOW AGAINST US. IT IS NECESSARY THAT I SEND THIS SPEECH TO PANAMA AS THE DECONCINI AMENDMENT AFFECTS US DIRECTLY AND THE SPEECH SHOULD HAVE THE OBJECTIVE OF RESOLVING THE PROBLEM THAT THE DECONCINI AMENDMENT PUT US INTO.'

QUOTE: MOORE: 'I DO NOT SEE ANY DIFFICULTY. (DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE) WARREN CHRISTOPHER WILL HAVE THE TEXT READY TOMORROW FOR CERTAIN.'

QUOTE: LATER IN THE EXCHANGE, THE DOCUMENT QUOTES LEWIS AS SAYING, 'I THINK YOU HAVE PUBLIC OFFICIALS WITH INTERVENTIONIST MENTALITIES'.

QUOTE: 'WHERE?' MOORE IS SAID TO HAVE ASKED.

QUOTE: 'NOT HERE AT THE WHITE HOUSE BUT IN ALL YOUR DEPARTMENTS', LEWIS IS QUOTED AS RESPONDING. 'MANY OF THEM ARE NOT HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS BUT OF THE MIDDLE LEVEL'.

QUOTE: AT STILL ANOTHER POINT IN THE CONVERSATION, LEWIS SUGGESTS THAT SENATORS 'ARE NOT AWARE OF THE PANAMANIAN REALITY' REGARDING HOSTILITY TO THE TREATY CHANGES. 'YOU'RE RIGHT', MOORE IS QUOTED AS RESPONDING. 'BUT WE CANNOT MAKE THE SENATORS OF THE OPPOSITION FACE THIS.'

QUOTE: IN THE STATEMENT RELEASED BY THE WHITE HOUSE LAST NIGHT, MOORE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE GENERAL POLITICAL SITUATION THAT THE DECONCINI RESERVATION HAD CREATED BOTH IN PANAMA AND AMONG SUPPORTERS IN THE SENATE.

QUOTE: MOORE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE TOLD THE PANAMANIAN OFFICIALS 'THAT IN NO WAY WOULD AN AMENDMENT UNDERCUTTING UNCLASSIFIED

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THE LEGALITY OF THE DECONCINI AMENDMENT BE ADOPTED BY THE U.S. SENATE'.

QUOTE: REFERRING TO A MEETING THE PANAMANIAN WERE PLANNING FOR THE NEXT DAY, LAST THURSDAY, WITH ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER ALAN CRANSTON OF CALIFORNIA, MOORE SAID HE TOLD THE PANAMANIAN HE THOUGHT IT 'WOULD BE HELPFUL IN TERMS OF EXPRESSING THEIR CONCERNS'. BUT HE SAID HE 'POINTED OUT TO THEM, HOWEVER, THAT IN NO WAY SHOULD THEY BECOME INVOLVED IN PROPOSING LANGUAGE FOR AN AMENDMENT OR RESERVATION'.

QUOTE: NO SUCH ADMONITIONS APPEAR IN THE 'TRANSCRIPT' THAT WAS CIRCULATED YESTERDAY. UNQUOTE. VANCE

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